Rice University
Shepherd School of Music

# MUSI 518 The Art and Business of Studio Teaching

**Spring Semester 2014**
**T/Th 9:25-10:40**

**Instructor:** Cornelia Watkins
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**Office Hours**: by appointment

**Course Objectives**

- Essential principles and practices of teaching
- Basic organization and business practices of running a teaching studio
- Adaptability to a variety of teaching situations

**Course Projects and Grading:**

- Teaching session at a local elementary, middle, or high school (35%)
- Development of materials for teaching notebook and website (30%)
- Class attendance and participation (20%)
- Quizzes and daily assignments (15%)

**Attendance:** Class attendance is mandatory. Missed classes beyond one excused absence will result in 5% points off attendance/participation grade. Unanticipated absences can be made up by observing a lesson and completing an observation form.

**Required Textbook:** Watkins, C. and Scott, L. (2012). *From the Stage to the Studio: How Fine Performers Become Great Teachers.* NY: Oxford University Press
**Other required materials:** 3 ring binder with dividers and laptop computer.

**Please note:** The website component of this course requires the availability of a computer to be brought to class when requested by the instructor. Computers may be used in class only when specifically directed; otherwise the use of computers and hand-held devices during class is not permitted.

Students are expected to uphold the Rice Honor Code in their studies and in all assignments.

*Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Disability Support Services in the Allen Center.*

**Project details**:

**Teaching Presentation Project (35%):** You will prepare and provide a coaching session or clinic to a group of primary or secondary students in their school. Course instructor will provide school contact lists and several weeks of guided class time for developing your teaching session. You will be responsible for setting a time and date for your in-school session and presenting your session to our class before your in-school session.

**Teaching Materials/Website Development Project (30%):** The goal of this project is to help you shape your teaching ideas and organize your studio. The materials developed should reflect your personality and individuality while portraying your depth of understanding as a musician and your professionalism as a teacher.

Elements required for fulfillment of this project include: A short teaching statement that expresses why you believe learning a musical instrument is valuable; a lesson policy, which will include services offered and fees; a photograph and short biography; and one supplemental item of your choice that relates directly to what you teach. In the final weeks of the course you will post these materials on your own website.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### I. Teaching Principles and Clarifying Approaches

January 14 Semester projects overview, requirements and expectations; Identifying influences
January 16 Presenting yourself as a teacher; creating a teaching statement
January 21 GUEST SPEAKER Meredith Harris, violist and Suzuki teacher
January 23 Teaching musicianship/musicality
January 28 Drawing out musicality in students; Student engagement and motivation
January 30 Teaching technique; Creating a logical sequence
February 4 Varying approaches with "learning styles"; Artistic Ideals vs. Realistic adjustments
February 6 How to make teaching "stick"
February 11 GUEST SPEAKER Rachel Buchman—teaching foundational musical skills
February 13 Teaching comprehensively—offering students the complete picture
February 18 Developing presentations
February 20 Master classes, sectionals, and performance clinics; create evaluation form
February 25 Student teaching demonstrations
February 27 Student teaching demonstrations
*March 3-7 SPRING BREAK No classes*

### II. The Business and Organization of Teaching

March 11 Teacher interviews and insights/Basic studio set-up
March 13 Building a class/Teaching statements and lesson policies
March 18 Problems and Solutions/Ethics
March 20 Writing your lesson policy/Assembling website material.
March 25 Final week of in-school sessions/follow-up reports and discussions.
March 27 Book-keeping, long-term financial planning.
April 1 TAX DAY
*April 3 SPRING RECESS No class*

### III. Your Studio: Present and Future

April 8 GUEST SPEAKER Chapman Welch—how to create a website
April 10 Developing your website
April 15 Your role in the big picture—the cycle of learning and teaching; inclusiveness, reciprocity
April 17 Unanswered questions—teaching issues
April 22 Nice teacher=weak teacher, Mean teacher=good teacher?
April 24 Sharing completed websites

NO FINAL EXAM